

RIC 2005 Session: T-C1 "Grid Reliability"

Jose Calvo
Branch Chief
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
March 8, 2005

GRID RELIABILITY

 August 14, 2003 Blackout Event raised concerns regarding the reliability of offsite power to nuclear power plants

 NRC Chairman directed staff to review issues

GRID RELIABILITY

- Deterministic and Risk insights pointed to the following:
 - Long duration Loss of Offsite Power events are safety significant
 - Risk increases when the plant's ability to cope with an event is decreased due to online equipment outages
 - The potential for the Grid to be less reliable during the Summer period because of less margin

GRID RELIABILITY

- GDC 17, "Electric power systems"
- 10 CFR 50.63, "Loss of all alternating current power"
- 10 CFR 50.65, Maintenance Rule
- Plant Technical Specifications

SHORT TERM ACTIONS

- NRC staff raised awareness by issuing Regulatory Information Summary 2004-05, "Grid Reliability and the Impact on Plant Risk and the Operability of Offsite Power
- NRC staff monitored grid conditions and events
- NRC staff issued Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/156, "Offsite Power System Operational Readiness"

SHORT TERM ACTIONS

- Staff completed those short-term actions discussed during the May 10, 2004, Commission Meeting and we note the following:
 - No safety significant issues were identified based on the TI review
 - Considerable inconsistency and variability of the industry's response is reflected in TI data

NEXT STEPS

 Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) M041209 has directed the NRC staff to issue a generic communication for public comment no later than April 30, 2005.

NEXT STEPS

- Monitor Grid conditions for offsite power operability & maintenance risk
- Communication protocols between the Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) – Transmission System Operator
- Real Time Contingency Analysis
 Programs to identify potential post-trip voltage problems
- Restoration procedures and coping duration for Station Blackout